

Committee on Ways And Means

Adjustments to Payment for Imaging Services

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) contains two imaging provisions.

- First, it ensures that payments for imaging services delivered in a physician office or independent free-standing imaging center do not exceed payments for identical imaging services delivered in hospital outpatient departments.
- It makes sense for Medicare to pay the same amount for the same imaging services, no matter where those services are delivered.
- Second, the Secretary is required by law to raise payments for other physician services when payments are reduced for multiple images on contiguous body parts done on the same day. The DRA saves taxpayers money by returning these savings to taxpayers.
- The DRA in no way restricts imaging services, such as ultrasound or x-rays, which still may be provided in a physician's office. It simply ensures that Medicare is not paying more for those services in a physician's office than it would pay in a hospital outpatient department.